

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [062] and add new paragraph [071] of the specification as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. Also, please amend the heading appearing between paragraphs [007]-[008] and the heading appearing between paragraphs [032]-[033] as shown below.

Heading appearing between paragraphs [007]-[008]

~~DISCLOSURE~~ SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Heading appearing between paragraphs [032]-[033]

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Paragraph [062]        When the casting operation is repeated, the compressive residual stress of each of the dies 12, 14, 16, 18 is progressively decreased. Therefore, heat cracks ~~will appear in the dies 12, 14, 16, 18~~ at some time with sufficient repeated use. In order to avoid this inconvenience, the first shot peening treatment, the sulphonitriding treatment, and the second shot peening treatment may be applied again as described above to the dies 12, 14, 16, 18 in each of which the compressive residual stress has been decreased. Accordingly, it is possible to increase the compressive residual stress of each of the dies 12, 14, 16, 18 again. Thus, it is possible to further prolong the period of time until a heat crack appears.

Paragraph [071]    Although there has been described what are the present embodiments of the invention, it will be understood that modifications and variations may be made thereto within the spirit and scope of the invention as reflected in the appended claims.